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THURSDAY, JANUARY 14TH 2016

TARANTINO – DOES OUR GARETH LOVE HIM OR HATE HIM? Page 18

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FOR A WONDERFUL WEDDING!
Feature on pages 22-23

DRAMA AS DRIVER RESCUED FROM CAR IN RIVER

THERE was high drama in Cowbridge last Wednesday (January 6), when an elderly gentleman accidentally left the road and drove into the fast-flowing River Thaw.

The pressure of the water washed the car downstream, until it became wedged under a bridge at the foot of Constitution Hill.

A spokeswoman for the South Wales Fire Service said that a call came in at 3.09pm, and that three crews had attended, as well as a South Wales Police patrol car.

She said: "The man was rescued from the car, which was trapped under a bridge. The water was fast flowing, and was 0.6 metre in depth."

(SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 4).

PHOTOGRAPH by JOHN ANDREW.

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The young chefs' cuisine impresses town restaurateur

THE Rotary Young Chef annual competition goes from strength-to-strength as this year there were 16 budding chefs from year-10 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School who wanted to show their cooking skills.

The high interest meant that there was a preliminary 'cook-off' to select eight competitors who went forward to the main competition held on Monday, January 11.

The task given was to prepare, cook and present a three-course meal for two people with ingredient costs that did not exceed £15.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Is western Vale being overlooked?

IN the January 7 edition of The GEM, you ran a story about a campaign for a crossing in Llysworney (*'Villagers call for a pedestrian crossing'*).

The road through Llysworney is currently the main route for people living in the western Vale to reach the A48, Bridgend, and the M4.

The article acknowledges that HGVs use this route, without noting that it is highlighted by satnav systems as the main route to the western Vale.

Whereas I am sure that a pedestrian crossing would be useful for the residents of Llysworney, a proper solution to traffic problems in the area, must surely tackle the 'single lane' road that leads into the village and is the scene of much congestion.

Although clearly not straightforward, widening this road (and indeed looking at straightening it between the village and the A48) would enable a safer traffic flow and less frustration for drivers.

Or is our council so concerned with people in Barry and their access to Cardiff that those in the western Vale are to be overlooked?

David Heald,
Llantwit Major.

Shooting stars a magical sight

APART from saving the council money, it has occurred to me that the switching off of our street lighting between midnight and 6am in Llantwit Major also benefits those of us who are stargazers, making it a perfect Dark Sky area.

In mid-December, when looking out of my bedroom window at about 4am, during the peak of the Geminids meteor shower, I saw two shooting stars. For those of you who have never been lucky enough to see a shooting star, I can tell you it is a purely magical sight to see.

Linda Bailey,
Llantwit Major.

Question is: who is for change?

THE Vale Council is asking residents to help set spending priorities by commenting on the council's corporate plan, which claims to set out a strategic direction for the next four years.

The emphasis is on "radical changes" to how services are delivered, with claims that savings are "only possible" by making big changes to the way services are run

...a rather blinkered view in my humble opinion. Residents are asked whether they agree with the plan (principled and decent aspirations are plentiful, so it will be difficult to find many people that do not agree) and if they are willing to pay more.

I completed the 'consultation' process with the expectation that there would be the opportunity to suggest other areas where the council could save money,

I had a long list ready, but that opportunity seems to have slipped the survey designer's mind.

Dennis Harkus,
FocusBARRY member.

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Planners can't see the floods for the trees!

WHENEVER rainfall is exceptional, flooding must occur, but a hugely important factor in the severity of flooding is the speed with which that rainfall travels down from the hills, to swell the rivers.

When grassy slopes become water-logged, 100 per cent of further rain travels down the slopes as a sheet of water, arriving at the rivers very soon after it left the sky.

This is not the case where rain falls on wooded areas. The roots of all large plants such as trees, make the ground more porous to water, the flow of water over the ground is hindered, the transpiration of the trees suck up some proportion of the water. A much longer time elapses, between the rainfall, and the arrival of that water to the river.

In past times, the Welsh hills were covered with trees, which were sacrificed as pit-props to King Coal.

If we choose to plant trees of all types on the hills, starting right now, we could be harvesting a valuable crop of different woods in 70 years – which had alleviated the flooding problem during that time, had also absorbed huge amounts of carbon dioxide, thus slowing climate change, and created a wonderful environment for human beings – and venison for the table.

Every day by which such a scheme is delayed, is a measure of our failure to understand the true and imaginative answers to Britain's problems.

We should tax citizens with too much money, in order to pay salaries to other citizens whom we employ to plant ten million trees, for the rich future of our nation.

Rather than purchase the necessary heavy equipment as a new capital cost, we could hire present agricultural equipment, and use it as a 24/7 asset, when freed from present usage, with illumination, 24 hours of every day, with shift working.

While citizens should have work with dignity, we should plan to work each expensive machine, such as a bulldozer, quite ruthlessly, giving return on investment every single hour in which it is not being serviced.

It is the British perspective which is at fault. Money spent on insurance and repair to flooded property, is a necessary expense in our present situation, but is a negative waste of cash – compared to spending money in order to minimise the problem.

C N Westerman,
Brynna.

'Please sponsor Vale Jazz festival'

WE are currently appealing for sponsorship for the Vale Jazz festival, which will be held in and around Barry on May 20-22.

This would help the voluntary group that is organising the festival to ensure the second festival takes place.

It is anticipated that around 20 bands will play in 12 venues across the town; meaning that once again thousands can flock to the town that weekend for another free event.

The group is currently seeking sponsorship from local businesses to help pay for the bands' and publicity.

Please get in touch with me on 01446 736227, and help make this event the success it deserves.

Coun Richard Bertin,
Barry.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk

Llantwit showed its caring spirit

ON Christmas Eve, a frail and elderly friend fell over in Llantwit Major, resulting in a broken left hip.

When I arrived at the scene it was chilly, dark, and raining and she was surrounded, mostly by complete strangers, who had brought blankets and cushions, and were sheltering her with their umbrellas.

People took the trouble to contact both my daughter and myself, via two different chains of messages, to provide familiar faces for the confused, frightened casualty.

Meanwhile, a driver had positioned her car, hazard lights flashing, so as to prevent my friend being run over in the road.

I am told that one of Llantwit's retained firemen administered gas and air, and did much to calm the patient and ease her pain.

These kind-hearted folk could have been snug at home, wrapping parcels and enjoying mulled wine, but everyone stayed, in the cold and drizzle, for about an hour, until the casualty was safely away in the ambulance.

Several people, some of whom were in Llantwit to visit family, have continued to ask for updates on her recovery. It is painfully slow, but if it hadn't been for Llantwit's amazing community spirit, the outcome could have been much worse.

Also, many thanks to the wonderful paramedics, ambulance crew and the staff of Princess of Wales.

Thank you one and all.

(Name and address supplied)

You, too, can be a disability volunteer

AS we begin 2016 and the world starts to look ahead to the Rio Paralympics (and Olympics, of course!), I am writing to ask if your readers would like to volunteer with Leonard Cheshire Disability.

As well as supporting disabled people to live life the way they choose, the work will enable you to master many new skills and discover an amazing new side to yourself.

We are particularly keen to recruit new volunteer drivers, as well as volunteers to support disabled people in the evenings and weekends.

To find out more about how to become a Leonard Cheshire Disability volunteer, visit: *www.leonardcheshire.org, call 020 3242 0296; or email volunteers@leonardcheshire.org*.

Begoña Mendez,
Volunteer enabling co-ordinator, Leonard Cheshire Disability.

SMALL STEPS TO BIGGER CHANGES

AT the start of the year, it is tempting to promise to make big lifestyle changes and then lose motivation, but it is good to remember that small changes can make a big difference to your health this year.

Your readers may be surprised to know that up to 80 per cent of Type 2 diabetes cases in Wales could be delayed or prevented by making lifestyle changes. Getting active and eating a healthy balanced diet is a great way to start protecting yourself from the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

Making small changes to your diet can also have a positive impact on your health.

You could challenge yourself to try out some healthier alternatives, changing sugar-sweetened drinks like fizzy drinks for water, 'diet' or 'sugar-free' alternatives, sweets for grapes. Check out *www.diabetes.org.uk/recipes*.

Dai Williams,
Director, Diabetes UK Cymru.

A flawed offer?

WHO would appoint an agent to represent him in a negotiation if the agent has let the other side know beforehand that he will accept whatever it offers – if anything?

R Bradshaw,
Cowbridge.

Follow The GEM on Twitter - find us **@gem_news**, and follow our sports Twitter **@sport_gem**

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL JANUARY 21)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
14 Thur	09.17	9.9	21.38	9.9
15 Fri	09.59	9.7	22.24	9.3
16 Sat	10.52	9.4	23.15	8.9
17 Sun	11.47	9.0		
18 Mon	00.16	8.3	12.54	8.4
19 Tues	01.27	8.3	14.04	8.4
20 Wed	02.47	8.3	15.24	8.5
21 Thur	03.59	8.6	16.31	8.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP.

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The Welsh Government confirms that cash will go to Boverton flood defence

by PHILIP IRWIN

FLOOD defences that have been pencilled in for Boverton in Llantwit Major will be built in the next financial year (April 2016 to May 2017) – a Welsh Government Minister has announced.

The Natural Resources Minister Carl Sargeant today announced that £1.96 million has been allocated for the next financial year in the Draft Budget 2016-17 to complete the long-awaited important flood defence scheme.

The scheme is in an area that has suffered frequent flooding in recent years. It will reduce risk to around 17 homes and businesses and also provide amenity improvements.

The scheme will be built alongside and complement an existing project nearby in Llanmaes reducing risk to the wider catchment.

Carl Sargeant said: "Minimising the effects of flooding and keeping our communities safe are key priorities for this Government.

"Sustained Welsh Government investment in flood defences, awareness raising as well as forecast and warning systems over the last few decades is having an impact in making communities more resilient to flooding."

Coun Gwyn John, the Leader of the Llantwit First Group on the Vale Council, said: "Having witnessed first-hand the devastating effect flooding has had on Boverton and Llanmaes in the past, I have long been determined to do all I can to make sure it can never happen again.

"The commitment of over £250,000 from the Vale Council for this scheme is further evidence of the current administration's determination to tackle the risk of flooding across the Vale.

"While others may do a good job of talking about issues, this flood alleviation scheme and those already being delivered for Barry and Llanmaes, along with the enhanced scrutiny of proposed new developments now undertaken as part of the planning process, show clearly that it is the current administration of the Vale Council that is tackling them."

The Conservatives welcomed the news, with Vale MP Alun Cairns pointing out that he had highlighted the issue in his GEM column only last week.

He said: "I am delighted that this project will go ahead at long last. The community has waited too long, but that wait will soon be over."

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies AM, said that improving the flood defences at Boverton was part of Alun Cairns' plan for a better future for Llantwit Major, and that Vale Assembly candidate Ross England and Llantwit councillor Tony Bennett had worked with him.

The scheme will widen and straighten the culvert under Boverton Road, and widen the channel immediately downstream. Development of the scheme is being led by Vale Council, working with Natural Resources Wales.

The scheme is anticipated to take 6 months to construct. The works will include a major piling operation to construct new concrete walls under the road before a new reinforced-concrete slab is placed on top to carry the highway across the brook.

Channel widening and the realignment of the existing walls downstream will also be undertaken to further enhance the conveyance of flows away from Boverton.

CADETS HELP OUT IN A COFFEE SHOP

IN the run-up to Christmas, Cowbridge Air Cadets were busy in Costa Coffee acting as hosts to raise funds for their squadron.

The cadets were to be seen showing customers to empty tables, clearing tables, handing out food samples for customers to try, and helping out in general.

Many customers commented on how polite and well-mannered they were and how nice it was to see teenagers giving up their free time to volunteer in is way.

Air cadets from other squadrons were also busy in other Costa Coffee establishments, as part of the shop's initiative to aid local charities to raise money. It was an enjoyable experience for the cadets, some of whom had their first taste of work experience. Thanks to Cowbridge Costa and the generosity of the good folk of Cowbridge and surrounding area, the cadets raised over £400 for 293 Squadron Cowbridge.

S LEWIS

Contender for club's best talk of the year!

IT was the best talk that Cowbridge-Pontfaen Probus Club had had this year... Well, it was the first meeting, but I'm willing to bet it will take some beating!

Our speaker was Simon Ems, an inshore lifeboat helmsman from Porthcawl, who told us about the RNLI in general and about Porthcawl and his own experiences in particular. Fascinating material, very well presented.

Simon was attracted to Porthcawl because his girlfriend – now his wife – was at school there and to the RNLI when he heard the maroons calling the volunteers to launch one of the boats.

Porthcawl, which is the busiest station in Wales, has two boats and the station also provided lifeguards at the beaches. Since it was founded in 1824, the RNLI has saved around 1,400 lives. The service costs about £140 million a year to run – a new lifeboat costs £2 million – and is funded entirely by charitable donations, it receives no public money.

Simon mentioned various rescues of boats which had broken down, been left high and dry after anchoring over rocks at high tide, of people trapped on the cliffs at Southerndown – don't try to rescue your dog if he runs over the edge – and of windsurfers caught by bad weather.

One recent incident was the rescue of a fisherman off Porthcawl who fell nine metres into a two to three metre swell and cut his arms badly on barnacles as he clung to the pier but, despite all this, managed to keep his spectacles on.

Simon also mentioned some of the losses such as the Mumbles lifeboat, which was lost with all her eight crew in 1947. Someone said that firemen ranked as some of the bravest people because they ran into burning buildings when everyone else was running away. I think that the RNLI volunteers are up there with them as they launch their boats into 40 mph (and stronger) gales when everyone else has headed for safety.

This is about our tenth meeting since the Cowbridge and Pontfaen Probus clubs merged and everything seems to be going smoothly. If anyone would be interested in joining a very friendly bunch of people, give me a call on 01446 710669.

GAVIN DAVIES

Mystery of the garden shed

YSTRADOWEN AND DISTRICT WI NEWS

OUR New Year January meeting started off with a speaker and a title of 'What does She Do in the Garden Shed?'

It turned out to be a humorous and totally absorbing insight into the making of felt items from wool and odd bits of material ranging from silk to dyed cotton.

These items, created by Pat Johnson, included beautiful jackets, a length of felt with two armholes turned into a high fashion garment which our president modelled with enviable panache; small toys, handbags, scarves and a range of hats which had to be seen to believed. A cheerful and enjoyable way to start the year.

The meeting concluded with business, part of which was the consideration and then voting on the eight resolutions put before every WI in the United Kingdom.

Under the heading of 'You Decide', every member had one vote on the very diverse subjects, and the responsibility of knowing that their vote would influence the winning resolution which would go forward to the 2016 annual meeting in Brighton.

We all know how the yearly resolution by the national WI can influence institutions and governments and sometimes even change the law.

As it says on our membership cards – visitors are welcome, and hopefully stay on to become full members.

GLENDA BELL

Cowbridge Arts Group

THE January exhibition in Old Hall is 'Local Landscapes', photographs and paintings by artist Jan Williams.

Many works are for sale and admission is free during weekdays (including evenings).

For opening times call 01446 773831.

Library storytime

STORYTIME is back at Cowbridge Library on Wednesdays from 2pm–2.30pm for children aged up to five.

Come along for stories and a fun craft to take home!

Visit: *www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk* ***for more information.***

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Llangan Primary

ON my weekly visit to the school, I was introduced to new headteacher Miss Price. I am sure she will soon settle in her new environment and be as happy and successful as the school's former headteachers, Mary Noyes and Steve Williams.

School trip

ON Thursday, January 21, years 3/4 are visiting the Tesco store in Bridgend to learn the art of bread making – a very interesting subject.

Club meets

YOUNG At Heart Club meetings resumed on January 7 and new members are always welcome.

Meetings are held in the Treoes village hall every Thursday afternoon. Members also enjoy coach trips and meals out together.

OBE award

MR Gareth Williams of Treoes has been awarded the OBE in the New Year's honours list.

It is truly amazing that, while being involved in so many activities, Gareth and his wife Ruth work so diligently for St Canna's Church, Llangan.

Well done!

WELL done to my own great-granddaughters Jasmine, Nicole and Naomi, who each had their hair cut to provide wigs for children with health problems.

The amount raised was £500.

Happy birthday

Birthday wishes go to Young At Heart club member Betty Hill, who celebrates her birthday this week.

Everyone is wishing her speedy recovery and hoping that she will soon return to the club meetings.

You can now pick up your weekly GEM from the Cowbridge Post Office - don't miss out on your copy of the Vale's favourite free weekly newspaper!

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MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS...

2015 THROUGH THE CAMERAMAN'S EYE

WHETHER it be a Christmas tree festival, a charity event, a concert, a reindeer parade (or even a rainy parade), Mike Wilcock has been out and about in Cowbridge, proving that every picture tells a story! From everyone at The GEM, thanks Mike!

Student Helen's tasty dish of the day wins Rotary young chef title

The eight competitors with judge Andrew Huddart and Rotary president, Peter Moug.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The judge, Andrew Huddart of Huddarts restaurant, Cowbridge, was looking for tasty, well presented food, but he was also awarding marks for planning, presenting on time, and maintaining a clean and tidy workspace.

After much difficulty in making the choice, Maddie Jagger was declared the runner-up and Helen Jenkins the overall winner. Helen's meal was a smoked mackerel paté with toasted ciabatta followed by chicken, pancetta and leek pie with a medley of vegetables; and a raspberry and dark chocolate cheesecake for dessert.

Judge Andrew Huddart said: "The standard of the meals prepared was extremely high and reflects the enthusiasm within the design and technology department led by Mrs Mallows."

Rotarian Peter Moug, president of Cowbridge Rotary, presented the prizes and thanked Huddarts restaurant for sponsoring the cost of ingredients in the competition and Arthur John and Co. for providing prizes.

Further rounds of the competition culminate in a national final, with the chance to win a trip to meet some of the top chefs in Italy sponsored by Filippo Berio.

Young Chef is part of the wide programme of youth activities supported by the Cowbridge Rotary Club.

TABLET TRAINING

NEW to tablet computing? Come along to Cowbridge library on Monday, January 18 from 10.30am–12.30pm. To book your place, call 01446 773941.

Cowbridge Rotary president Peter Moug hands the winner's certificate to Helen Jenkins.

Car ends up in River Thaw

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1).

ABOVE:
A view of the car after it became trapped under the bridge. Thankfully, the driver was rescued by the Fire Service.

RIGHT:
The scene at the incident.

Photos by John Andrew).

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Public Notices

RONALD GEORGE CHARD (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of The Manor House St Hilary Cowbridge CF71 7DP, who died on 08/09/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 18/03/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GLAMORGAN LAW LLP
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Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Yellow Lab Logistics of **The Pitt, Park Road, Whitemoor, St Austell, Cornwall, PL26 7XQ**

Is applying to change an existing licence as follows:

To add an operating centre to keep **2** goods vehicles and **2** trailers at **XDP Cardiff, Tower Close, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend, Glamorgan, CF31 3TH.**

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

NEW YEAR... BUT IT'S THE SAME OLD STORY FOR BARRY CHESS CLUB'S TEAMS!

THE new year has only just begun but already all four of the Barry Chess Club teams have been in action. We could only muster one win and one draw from these games.

The Bosons made the short journey to Cardiff to take on the Monarchs team. They returned home with a 3-2 victory. This was exactly the same score that they achieved in the first match of the new season.

This victory puts the Bosons into third place, but there is a big gap between them and the title-contesting Cardiff Castles and Caerphilly Kings.

Also in division one the Camelots did the Castles a favour by holding the Kings to a draw, thanks to Peter Watkins winning on board five.

Excellent result though this is it doesn't really alter the league table, with the Camelots still in the bottom three some eight points from safety with only eight games left to play.

In division four, the Gambits travelled to Pontypridd to take on the imaginately named Pontypridd Thirds. The Pontypridd side have been underachievers in this division since their inception last year.

They have the quality to be challanging for promotion but seem unable to produce the consistent form required.

However, they must like playing the Gambits, as for the second time this season they defeated us by 4-1. Ken Curry being the only winner for the Barry side.

The Gambits are marooned in eighth place and are unlikely to move up or down in the table.

Late news saw the Quarks travel to play the Penarth Piers. The Penarth side have an outside chance of promotion wheras our aim, (or is it just hope?) is to avoid relegation.

The high point of the evening was when the Penarth club steward put his head around the door to enquire if anyone had a blue car, as one of the patrons of the club had forgotten to put the handbrake on.

One by one the games ended with victory for the Piers. John Stephenson appeared to have a draw but Tony Gutteridge found his way through John's defences.

Our blushes were saved when Dave Mahoney gratefully and quickly accepted Maurice Barnett's offer of a draw.

The Quarks remain outside the bottom three but must do better if we are to stave off the fear of relegation.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details, visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for January 11:

1st Vida Halford and Glyn Williams 65.77 per cent, 2nd Phil Felman and Tony Disley 63.10, 3rd Glenda Roberts and Liam Sheridan 61.01.

LE

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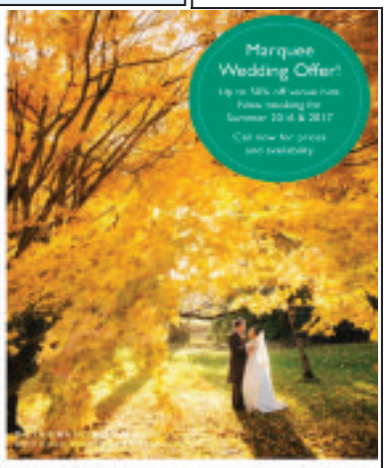

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What is the secret to the perfect wedding?

START PLANNING THE BIG DAY EARLY!

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ALTHOUGH we are in January and people may be planning to get married in the spring or summer (for obvious reasons) now is the time to start doing your research and planning.

Whether you fancy a quiet family get-together with the minimum of fuss and less cost or a spectacular affair that aims to make a real statement – it is essential to get ahead of the game.

The last thing a couple need is a last-minute rush.

The most important thing to decide is where you will get married.

Many people still like the tradition of a church ceremony emphasising Christian themes. If so, it is advisable to approach the local vicar or pastor to discuss what sorts of dates are available.

Others, want a setting where wedding vows and the reception can be combined – and you can find the authorised venues by contacting the Register Office at the Civic Offices on Holton Road Barry; in Bridgend county borough, that means the Civic Offices in Angel Street.

The next thing is to decide where you want to hold the reception.

In the Vale and Bridgend brides and grooms are spoilt for choice – there are wonderful hotels and restaurants, and even a castle – at Fonmon!

So you've decided where to get married and where to hold the reception, the next thing is wedding attire.

It is a chance for everyone to dress up and look their best.

There are specialist bridal shop to help the bride with her unforgettable dress, and to select outfits for the bridesmaids.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

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Don't rely on family or friends for the best wedding day snaps – *call in the professionals!*

YOUR wedding day is one of the most momentous days in a person's life – and it is advisable to get a professional photographer who will capture all the magic of the day.

Don't be tempted to rely on a friend for images that will adorn your mantelpiece or Welsh dresser for decades to come.

Friends and family are able to take snaps of the day and with the good digital equipment available nowadays, they will come up with some memorable moments.

But at a wedding, there are special moments that need the knowledge and eye of a true professional.

The professional photographer has the ability to get into the correct position to take a picture without being intrusive.

He or she is dedicated to recording the day – and, unlike relatives or friends with cameras, won't get distracted by extraneous issues.

Set up a meeting with your photographer well before the wedding so you can have an in-depth discussion about exactly what you want.

There's no point in complaining at a later date that a certain person or moment was missed if you didn't provide proper instructions.

Normally, there will be different packages available, depending on your budget and requirements.

You may want Mums and Dads or grandparents to have a few photographs on top of the album you've ordered.

For example, you may want pictures of particular groups. It is a good idea to get the best man to help the photographer in rounding up people required for the key photographs.

It's not easy for a photographer who may not know anyone present, to appreciate all the 'musts' for a particular picture.

***What is the best location to take photographs?* Most people don't just want indoor shots, they want some in the glorious outdoors, with a nice setting.**

Don't forget, some of the best images at weddings are at the reception when people are relaxed, so it is a good idea to give the photographer the green light to politely take images of people as they enjoy their meal.

Planning your big day...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

And for the bridegroom, the best man, and other close male members of the family, there is the option of wedding suit hire.

One of the most important moments in any wedding ceremony is the symbolic exchanging of rings. A trip to the local jeweller will provide you with a great range of rings.

Make sure you book a photographer well in advance. Ask to see some examples of his or her work, and decide a price in advance to avoid any future disputes.

Here at The GEM, many of our contributing photographers do weddings, and one issue that occurs surprisingly often is a simple one: Does the venue have a suitable backdrop for photos of the happy couple and guests?

It's all very well to choose your favourite pub for the occasion, but it spoils the moment if the bride and groom have to trek half a mile for somewhere scenic.

Again, if the weather lets you down and it's blowing a gale, is there a plan B – perhaps somewhere sheltered that still provides an attractive setting?

The perfect wedding is not so much about the grand design, it's about spotting those unexpected pitfalls and dealing with them in advance.

A final tip. Send out your wedding invitations well advance and set an RSVP date, so you can plan for the numbers well in advance!

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Church hall 'lifeline' for dementia support...

ABOVE:
Kath Hext and Sue Owen.

WHEN Vicar Viv Parkinson reopened his refurbished church hall in Llantrisant just over a year ago, he little knew that within a few months, it would prove to be a lifeline as a meeting place for a new support group set up for dementia sufferers and their carers.

He had intended that the hall with its modern new kitchen and toilets be used by local people who had helped to raise £150,000 for the makeover.

Now, in addition to regular use by community groups such as Brownies and various craft groups, the hall is home to a fortnightly meeting of the Llantrisant Parish Support Group – a new group set up nine months ago for those living with dementia and their carers.

"It is the best thing that I have ever done in my ministry," said Rev Parkinson, who has been a priest for 20 years.

The group runs on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 11am to 2.30pm – offering a range of activities such as puzzles, colouring, crafts and games. Singing sessions are often held and visiting speakers attend to give talks.

Sue Owen (67), from Talbot Green, who has Alzheimer's, and attends the support group twice a month, said: "This group is great as it offers me the opportunity to get out and socialise with other people. At home, I am by myself and even though I like to get out, I do not go out with my other friends now, as I do not feel comfortable – I get mixed up and I tire very easily.

"This group makes a huge difference to my life as it gives me something to look forward to."

Maria Warhurst, who attends the group with her husband, said, "This group gives us a break as we meet up with other people who are going through the same thing – I can chat to other wives who are also caring for their husbands."

Kath Hext, who also attends the group with her husband, said that she was not able to go out with him that much any more. other than shopping once or twice a week.

"I really look forward to Wednesdays – it's great to have somewhere to go, and have some friends to chat to when I get here. This group is marvellous – I wouldn't be without it now."

Another carer, Wendy Field, attends the group with her mother-in-law Joyce Field (91).

"Mum lives with us and I am her carer so this group offers us a chance to get out of the house, have a change of scene and meet up with other people," she said.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
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www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/
Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01457/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Front, side and rear dormer extensions together with rooflights
Location:/Lleoliad: Monkton House, Holmesdale Place, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01482/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: 2 detached 4-bedroom open-market houses and 8 detached and semi-detached 2 and 3-bedroom local needs houses
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to Brook Farm, Llanmaes, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Llanmaes

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01486/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: 2-storey side extension to provide new double garage, cloak room and gym on ground floor and new play room, home office and bathroom on first floor
Location:/Lleoliad: Tumblers Chase, St Hilary
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth St. Hilary

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01503/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Two and single storey extension
Location:/Lleoliad: 4, Victoria Avenue, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application(s) of General Interest/
Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01456/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Vary conditions 21 and 22 of approved application 2015/00095/FUL to remove reference to Plot 14 regarding the rear elevation rooflight windows
Location:/Lleoliad: Ardwyn, Pen y Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01458/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Reserved matters application for residential development
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at Barry Waterfront, South Quay Parkside, Barry

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01481/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of site known as AF2 for residential development and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing and landscape
Location:/Lleoliad: Site known as AF2, Barry Waterfront, Barry

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01482/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: 2 detached 4-bedroom open-market houses and 8 detached and semi-detached 2 and 3-bedroom local needs houses
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to Brook Farm, Llanmaes, Llantwit Major

May affect a Public Right of Way/
Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01458/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Reserved matters application for residential development
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at Barry Waterfront, South Quay Parkside, Barry

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/01481/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of site known as AF2 for residential development and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing and landscape
Location:/Lleoliad: Site known as AF2, Barry Waterfront, Barry

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/
Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8
Proposed development at Land at Barry Waterfront, South Quay Parkside, Barry.

I give notice that Persimmon Homes (East Wales) is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Reserved matters application for residential development.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement from Persimmon Homes (East Wales), Llantrisant Business Park, Llantrisant, Rhondda Cynon Taff
CF72 8YP so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 4 February, 2016.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 4 February 2016 quoting reference 2015/01458/RES.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8
Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land at Barry Waterfront, South Quay Parkside, Barry

Hysbysir trwy hyn Persimmon Homes (East Wales) n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Reserved matters application for residential development

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement from Persimmon Homes (East Wales), Llantrisant Business Park, Llantrisant, Rhondda Cynon Taff
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Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

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Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 4 February 2016 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2015/01458/RES.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8
Proposed development at Site known as AF2, Barry Waterfront, Barry.

I give notice that BDW Trading Ltd. is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Development of site known as AF2 for residential development and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing and landscape.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement from Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, Helmont House, Churchill Way, Cardiff CF10 2HE so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 4 February, 2016.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 4 February 2016 quoting reference 2015/01481/RES.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8
Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Site known as AF2, Barry Waterfront, Barry

Hysbysir trwy hyn BDW Trading Ltd. n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Development of site known as AF2 for residential development and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing and landscape

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement from Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, Helmont House, Churchill Way, Cardiff CF10 2HE so long as stocks last.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 4 February, 2016.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 4 February 2016 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2015/01481/RES.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig 14 January, 2016

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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Source: www.abc.org.uk (April 2015)

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08 HYUNDAI i30 Premium 2.0 CRDi Diesel 5-Dr In silver with leather, 41,000 miles.....**£4,995**
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59 SMART Fortwo Passion Auto In red/silver, 21,000 miles, glass roof etc **£4,295**
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08 FORD Fusion 1.6 Automatic Zetec In glacier blue, 33,000 miles with a/c **£3,995**
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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Kia Sportage are: Urban 31.0 (9.1) – 47.1 (6.0), Extra-Urban 46.3 (6.1) – 58.9 (4.8) and Combined 39.2 (7.2) – 54.3 (5.2). CO2 emissions are between 189-135/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Model shown is a Sportage '1' 1.7 CRDi 114 bhp 6-speed manual ISG. 7 year/100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk.

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Cricket club announces youth plans

COWBRIDGE Cricket Club begins an action packed year on Wednesday, February 3 when junior coaching commences at the Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

The under 9s (years 3-4, 2 on application) at 5.30pm; the under 11s (years 5-6) follow at 6.30pm; the under 13s (years 7-8) are at 7.30pm and the under 15s (years 9-10) take over at 8.30pm.

Both boys and girls are welcome and these indoor sessions will be run by qualified coaches who have been DBS checked.

When summer arrives there is a full fixture list within the Cardiff and Vale Junior League.

The pathway from the under 9s to Glamorgan and England has been followed by past generations of Cowbridge cricketers but the most important thing is for all to enjoy the game.

Full details including membership forms are on the club website *www.cowbridgecricket.co.uk*.

If you have any queries please call the junior cricket co-dinator, Sara Russell on 07806 483 722.

Last year saw the First XI crown the 175th season by achieving promotion to Division 1 of the South Wales Cricket Association.

The next step is to achieve Premier League status and there is genuine optimism this can be achieved.

Although last year's captain, Neil Brand has moved on it's a big welcome home to Ben Wright who of course began his cricket career in the junior section and went on to become a Glamorgan regular.

Also adding to the squad is Jake George a former Hampshire second XI player now at Cardiff University. Adding Tom Merilaht and Mike Lloyd to the mix gives the side a strong batting line up. The club is also hopeful of recruiting a quality pace bowler.

For the second XI there will be a major change in the playing conditions making the games shorter, down to 40 from 50 overs each and each game being straight win or lose. Add to this the need to use five bowlers and it seems to provide a much more attractive option for the more social cricketer.

There will also be a full range of events including the golf day again at the Vale Resort, again due to the generosity of the Leeke family, a match against MCC to make up for the 175th anniversary fixture which was rained off and the President's Lunch and match against Bridgend.

New member are very welcome in whatever capacity, players, scorers, administrators, coaches- whatever your interest.

Full details will appear on the website and in The GEM but for any further information please call Hugh Williams on 07710 438 337.

Jeff Bird

REDS BACK IN ACTION

AFTER a long break from football due to the poor weather, Cowbridge Town Reds were delighted to be able to travel to Sully to play the Scorpions in the first league fixture of 2016.

The pitch at Burnham Avenue, overlooking the Bristol Channel, was in remarkably good condition considering the recent rainfall.

Any Christmas indulgence did not show as the Reds attacked with gusto from the start and stood up to the home side's physicality. The opening goal came after five minutes and started from a defensive header by Akka Guwy which was picked up by Harry Treharne who drove forward before threading the ball through to Craig Tapsfield, who had carefully timed his run to remain onside and who bore down on goal before finishing coolly.

Soon afterwards the Reds were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the Sully box which was dispatched into the top corner by Akka, who gave the keeper no chance.

A series of corners by the Reds created some half-chances which failed to find the Sully net, but shortly after Craig was able to score his second of the day completing his hat-trick soon after to make the score 4-0.

Sully responded with a goal of their own cutting straight through the visitors' midfield and defence to make the half-time score 4-1.

The Reds played up the slope in the second half, but it was not to be an uphill struggle, as a terrific left footed shot from Harry found the back of the net to open the second-half scoring.

There followed a period of end-to-end play with neither side able to convert the chances that were created.

The breakthrough came eventually and started with good distribution from goalkeeper Aron Kempson which led to a break down the right wing with Ruben Davies on the end of the final ball to tuck the ball away. Ruben claimed his second shortly afterwards to make the score 7-1.

Harry scored his second soon after followed by Sam Davies opening his account from a great delivery by Toby Mallett. To their credit, Sully kept battling and were unfortunate to have a goal disallowed for offside.

The Reds' defence had been expertly marshalled by captain Rhys Hardman but, after he was replaced with 10 minutes remaining, it was caught napping which allowed Sully to score the final goal of the game and make the score 9-2 at full-time.

While both teams looked rusty after such a long lay-off, they deserve credit for playing competitive football until the final whistle.

The Reds were pleased to get back on the pitch and hope their next game is sooner rather than later.

Squad: Tom Collingridge, Ben Cooke, Ruben Davies, Sam Davies, Steffan Evans, Akka Guwy, Rhys Hardman, Will Harris, Aron Kempson, Toby Mallett, Tom McCarthy, Benji Mulcahy, Ifor Rees, Craig Tapsfield, Edward Thomas, Harry Treharne.

SE

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

AFTER the winter break and the completion of the Great Western Cup before Christmas, the first darts matches of 2016 were played on Tuesday, January 12, results of which will be given next week.

This coming Tuesday, January 19 a full programme of league matches will be played. The Edmondes B hosts the Farmers B (H&H), the Edmondes C hosts the Edmondes A, the Farmers Arms hosts the Old Post Ladies and the Six Bells Inn hosts the Highwayman Inn. Llanharry do not have a game..

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at *cowbridgedarts@gmail.com*, up-to-date information can be found on the website: *www.darts.apsn.co.uk*.

PJT

We welcome your sports news and reports - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Bowls club take a trip to Torquay

THE start of 2016 saw members of Llantwit Major Bowls Club making a visit to Torquay Leisure Hotels, for a second time in just over two months.

Although the original party was 12 club members, only eight made the trip to Torquay for various reasons. This made it difficult for bowls co-ordinator Sarah Vinnicome, whose only option was to give all the remaining sides a bye, and for the second time in two months Llantwit had a team going through the whole tournament undefeated.

This was not a normal game of bowls, as it had a football theme, in which you had to score three shots to score a goal and if a team put the jack into the ditch, the opposition got a penalty on the following end in which they could remove two woods from the other team.

The undefeated rink was Edna Hardie, Margaret Morgan, Bert Colling and skipped by the experienced Eric Hacker. Their average age was 80 years, brought down by youngster Bert. Well done you four and thanks for a great week.

Returning home we had a mixed game on Saturday, in Penarth Rectory Road, which we all enjoy. The result, however did not go Llantwit's way.

Scores: J.Ball, M. Morgan, M. Jones and E. Hacker 13-29; K. Jones, D. Jones, G. Snowdon and V. Ball 14-22; K. Williams, H. Nixon, J. Nixon and J. Molly 14-17; and Llantwit's winning rink G. Fox, R. Gray, J. Crane and E. Gray 22-13.

In conclusion, many thanks to Mike Jones for finding players, when others cried off, and to Graham Snowdon, who received a telephone call at 9.30pm on Friday evening - once again, thank you both.

WJB

The Farmers' Nipper final goes to the wire!

Winner Dan Jarvis on the right with runner-up Neil Mclean together with flag attendant Tim Jarvis.

THE final of the Nipper Jewell knockout competition between defending champion Dan Jarvis and Neil McLean organised by the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was played last Thursday on the Wales National course at the Vale of Glamorgan complex.

Playing off the white tees and with wet conditions underfoot both players played to a very high standard helped by the warm sunshine that greeted the players on arrival.

Neil McLean won the first two holes before Dan Jarvis brought the match all square when winning the next two.

Thanks mainly to some well executed iron shots Dan had a one-hole lead over Neil as they approached the halfway stage.

Playing the next three holes without dropping a shot allowed Dan to increase his lead to two holes before Neil struck back when winning the long 'dog leg' 16th hole.

Neil had the opportunity of bringing the match all square at the 17th but uncharacteristically three putted leaving Dan with a one hole lead as they stepped onto the 18th tee.

Unfortunately Neil's approach shot from 150 yards into the 18th green found the water hazard leaving Dan the winner of this coveted trophy donated to the society in memory of the late Mr Keith 'Nipper' Jewell.

Society members are now looking forward to their first meeting of the New Year scheduled for Thursday, January 28, at Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club and the opportunity of winning one of the many quality prizes supplied by the days sponsor Mr Gino Cocco of Llanharan Concrete Company Ltd.

T.McC